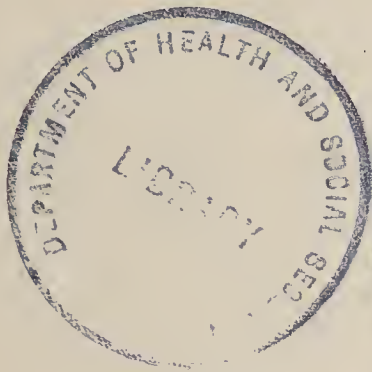


PLYMPTON ST. MARY
RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL



ANNUAL REPORT

FOR THE YEAR 1968

of the

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

and

SENIOR PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR



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*Committees of the Council concerned with matters of Public Health
are as follows:*

WORKS COMMITTEE: PLANNING COMMITTEE

PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT

Medical Officer of Health:

JOHN WILDMAN, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H. (LOND.)

Deputy Medical Officer of Health (part-time):

MARY E. BUDDING, M.B., B.CH., B.SC., D.P.H.

Senior Public Health Inspector:

R. OSBORNE, M.A.P.H.I.

(Also Inspector of Meat and Other Foods and Petroleum Inspector)

Public Health Inspector:

E. R. SHEPHERD, M.A.P.H.I.

(Also Inspector of Meat and Other Foods)

Clerk:

MISS G. H. PROWSE

Public Health Department

Council Offices, Plympton, Plymouth

Telephone: Plymouth 36644

TO THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF THE PLYMPTON ST. MARY RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

MR. CHAIRMAN AND COUNCILLORS,

I present herewith the Annual Report on the health of the District during 1968. Included in the Report is the Report of your Senior Public Health Inspector.

Statistics

The Registrar-General estimated that the population increased by 160 persons to a total of 14,620 persons. Births exceeded deaths by 21 people, which means that 139 persons moved into the District. The Standardised Birth Rate fell to 14.1 per thousand population, which is less than the National Average of 16.9 per thousand. The Standardised Death Rate increased slightly but is below the National Average of 11.9 per thousand population.

As usual, most deaths were due to diseases of the heart and circulation (57%). Cancer caused 18% of deaths and Chest Infections 17%. There were six infant deaths.

Notifiable Diseases

Infective Hepatitis (Catarrhal or Infective Jaundice) was made notifiable during the year and one case was notified.

An outbreak of bacillary dysentery at Ivybridge began in October. It reached its peak towards the end of October but sporadic cases occurred until Christmas 1968. A total of 117 families was affected involving 333 persons, but only 35 cases were officially notified. Field-work and follow-up of cases was done by the local Health Visitor by kind permission of the County Medical Officer. She visited every patient and organised 470 laboratory tests. Excellent co-operation was received from the local doctors, the Plymouth Public Health Laboratory, and from local schools, and the excellent teamwork, including that of the patients themselves, made control of the outbreak easier.

Infections Common to Farm Animals and Man

Elsewhere in this Report is included a paragraph dealing with infections on farms. In the four large rural districts covered by your Medical Officer of Health (Kingsbridge, Plympton, Tavistock and Totnes) a marked increase has been noted in the number of infections on farms common to man and animals. Those in particular which occurred in 1968 were Anthrax, Salmonella Infections and Brucellosis. After each incident was reported to the Public Health

Department the farmer was advised as to what to do to minimise the risk of spreading the disease to humans. There were 3 outbreaks of Anthrax, 70 outbreaks of Salmonellosis (one outbreak resulted in approximately 70 cases of food poisoning amongst humans) and 3 outbreaks of Brucellosis. Two of the Brucellosis incidents affected herds where the farmer was a producer-retailer of raw untreated milk and it was necessary to arrange for the milk to be pasteurised before sale to the public until the infection on the farms had been eradicated. The Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food has a voluntary Brucellosis Eradication Scheme but, although Devon is one of the foremost counties in getting farmers interested, I feel the scheme would be more efficacious if it was made compulsory or farmers were given more financial inducements to join it.

The Chief Medical Officer to the Ministry of Health (now the Department of Health and Social Security) in his 1967 Annual Report states that 'untreated milk is unsafe milk'; but whilst pasteurisation of infected milk renders it safe, how much better it would be to have uninfected milk to start with and not rely solely upon pasteurisation to safeguard human health.

In conclusion, I wish to thank all my colleagues on the staff, and the Councillors, for their help and guidance during 1968.

JOHN WILDMAN,

Medical Officer of Health.

June 1969.

VITAL AND GENERAL STATISTICS, 1968

Table 1

Figures for 1967 shown in italics

POPULATION

Estimated Mid-Year: 14,620 *14,460* (Registrar-General's estimate)

GENERAL STATISTICS

Area: 60,167 acres

Number of Inhabited Houses according to the Rate Books at

1st April 5,084 *4,954*

Number of Houses per acre 0.085 *0.082*

Number of Persons per acre 0.273 *0.240*

Number of Persons per house 2.876 *2.919*

Rateable Value of the District at 1st April

£563,408 *£532,001*

Sum represented by a Penny Rate £2,422 *£2,228*

Table 2

Figures for 1967 shown in italics

BIRTHS

Standardised Live Birth Rate per 1,000 population 14.1 *16.7*

Area Comparability Factor for Births .. 1.03 *1.03*

<i>Number of Live Births</i>	<i>Males</i>	<i>Females</i>	<i>Total</i>
<i>Total</i>	104	96	200
<i>Legitimate</i>	99	90	189
<i>Illegitimate</i>	5	6	11
<i>Number of Still Births</i>	0	1	1

DEATHS

Standardised Death Rate per 1,000 population 10.5 *9.3*

Area Comparability Factor for Deaths .. 0.86 *0.80*

<i>Number of Deaths</i>	<i>Males</i>	<i>Females</i>	<i>Total</i>
<i>All Ages: Total</i>	92	87	179
<i>Deaths of Infants under 1 year</i> ..	4	2	6
Number under 4 weeks of age ..	2	1	3
Number under 1 week of age ..	2	1	3
<i>Infantile Mortality Rate per 1,000 Live Births</i>		30.0	5.4

COMPARISON WITH RATES FOR ENGLAND AND WALES

Birth Rate 16.9 *17.2* *Death Rate* 11.9 *11.2*

Infantile Mortality Rate 18.0 *18.3*

(Infants under 1 year of age)

CAUSES OF DEATH

	<i>Male</i>	<i>Female</i>	<i>Total</i>
B19 (1) Malignant Neoplasm – Stomach	3	3	6
B19 (2) Malignant Neoplasm – Lung, Bronchus	6	3	9
B19 (3) Malignant Neoplasm – Breast ..	0	3	3
B19 (4) Malignant Neoplasm – Uterus ..	–	1	1
B19 (6) Other Malignant Neoplasms, etc.	7	7	14
B46 (4) Other Diseases of Nervous System, etc. .. .	2	0	2
B26 Chronic Rheumatic Heart Disease	3	3	6
B27 Hypertensive Disease	3	1	4
B28 Ischaemic Heart Disease	23	18	41
B29 Other Forms of Heart Disease ..	6	5	11
B30 Cerebrovascular Disease	12	18	30
B46 (5) Other Diseases of Circulatory System .. .	1	10	11
B31 Influenza	0	1	1
B32 Pneumonia	7	7	14
B33 (1) Bronchitis and Emphysema ..	9	4	13
B46 (6) Other Diseases of Respiratory System .. .	1	0	1
B38 Nephritis and Nephrosis	1	0	1
B46 (8) Other Diseases, Genito-Urinary System .. .	1	0	1
B42 Congenital Anomalies	2	0	2
B44 Other Causes of Perinatal Mortality	1	1	2
B45 Symptoms and Ill-defined Condi- tions .. .	1	1	2
BE47 Motor Vehicle Accidents	1	0	1
BE48 All Other Accidents	1	1	2
BE49 Suicide and Self-inflicted Injuries	1	0	1
TOTAL ALL CAUSES	92	87	179

PREVALENCE OF AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS DISEASES

Notifiable Diseases

Table 1

			Age Group in Years					
			Under					Over
Disease		Total	1	1–	5–	15–	25–	65
Measles	..	9	1	4	3	1	0	0
Whooping Cough	..	4	0	2	1	1	0	0
Scarlet Fever	..	3	0	0	2	0	1	0
Dysentery	..	35	0	6	20	1	8	0
Infective Hepatitis	..	1	0	0	0	0	1	0
Tuberculosis	..	2	0	0	0	0	1	1
Pneumonia	..	1	0	0	0	0	0	1

Table 2

<i>Disease</i>	<i>Incidence by Quarters</i>				
	<i>Total</i>	<i>1st</i>	<i>2nd</i>	<i>3rd</i>	<i>4th</i>
Measles	9	1	4	4	0
Whooping Cough ..	4	0	1	0	3
Scarlet Fever ..	3	1	0	0	2
Dysentery	35	0	0	0	35
Infective Hepatitis ..	1	0	0	0	1
Tuberculosis ..	2	1	0	0	1
Pneumonia	1	0	0	1	0

PAROCHIAL DISTRIBUTION OF CASES OF NOTIFIABLE DISEASE FOR THE YEAR 1968

Disease	Bickleigh	Brixton	Cornwood	Ermington	Harford	Holbeton	Ivybridge	Newton and Noss	Sparkwell	Shaugh Prior	Wembury	Yealmpton	TOTALS
MEASLES	1	-	1	-	-	-	-	6	-	-	-	1	9
WHOOPING COUGH ..	-	-	-	-	-	-	4	-	-	-	-	-	4
SCARLET FEVER ..	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	2	3
DYSENTERY	-	-	2	1	-	-	32	-	-	-	-	-	35
INFECTIVE HEPATITIS	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	1
TUBERCULOSIS ..	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	1	-	-	-	2
PNEUMONIA	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
TOTALS	1	1	3	1	-	1	37	7	1	-	-	3	55

NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACTS, 1948 AND 1951

No action was necessary for the compulsory removal and detention of persons in need of care and attention.

Two persons were buried in accordance with Section 50 of the 1948 Act.

WATER SAMPLING

During the year, 156 samples were submitted for bacteriological examination.

The following table shows the results of the samples taken:

Supply	No. of samples taken	Presumptive Coliform Count per 100 ml.			
		Class 1 (less than 1)	Class 2 (1-2)	Class 3 (3-10)	Class 4 (greater than 10)
PUBLIC	152	148	1	—	3
PRIVATE	4	2	—	—	2
TOTAL ..	156	150	1	—	5

I am indebted to the Engineer and Surveyor for the following information;

SEWERAGE AND SEWAGE DISPOSAL

Substantial progress has been made on the Wembury Sewerage Scheme and it is hoped that the works will be in operation in mid-1969.

The Ivybridge Drainage Scheme has been approved in principle by the Ministry of Housing and Local Government and tenders have been invited for the provision of soil and surface water sewers in Fore Street and Western Road, and it is hoped that the work will commence in February 1969.

Tenders have also been received for the provision of a short length of foul sewer to connect the effluent discharge pipe from the septic tank serving The Fairway, Newton Ferrers, to an existing foul sewer, but the Ministry of Housing and Local Government have been unable to authorise a start to be made on the major proposals for the drainage of Newton Ferrers and Noss Mayo, although the scheme has been approved in principle.

REFUSE DISPOSAL

Refuse collection and disposal has continued normally throughout the year, with a weekly collection being afforded to the whole district with the exception of a few isolated properties.

PAROCHIAL DISTRIBUTION OF NON-COUNCIL HOUSES DURING 1968

Parish	No. of houses completed during 1968	No. of houses under construction on 31st December, 1968
Bickleigh	2	1
Brixton	3	—
Cornwood	9	8
Ermington	—	1
Harford	—	1
Holbeton	1	1
Ivybridge	44	49
Newton and Noss	8	9
Shaugh Prior	4	1
Sparkwell	—	4
Wembury	9	5
Yealmpton	14	16
TOTAL ..	94	96

COUNCIL HOUSES

There are 668 Council Houses distributed as follows:

<i>Parish</i>	<i>Number of dwellings</i>
Bickleigh	8
Brixton	78 (including 1 shop)
Cornwood	50
Ermington	6
Holbeton	16
Ivybridge	202 (including 2 shops)
Newton and Noss	42
Shaugh Prior	58
Sparkwell	74
Wembury	6
Yealmpton	128

HOUSING ACTS

SLUM CLEARANCE

Clearance Orders were made in respect of two areas during the year. Both were confirmed by the Minister without modification:

- (1) *Yealmpton No. 9 Clearance Order*
(1 & 2 Sunnyside, Yealmpton)
- (2) *Shaugh Prior No. 2 Clearance Order*
(1-8 Sunderland Cottages, Lee Moor)

HOUSES MADE FIT

37 houses were made fit in all respects.

FACTORIES ACT, 1961
PRESCRIBED PARTICULARS ON THE ADMINISTRATION OF THE FACTORIES ACT, 1937

PART I OF THE ACT

1. INSPECTIONS for purposes of provisions as to health (including inspections made by Public Health Inspectors)

PREMISES (1)	Number on Register (3)	Number of		
		Inspections (4)	Written Notices (5)	Occupiers prosecuted (6)
(i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	6	—	—	—
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	32	16	—	—
(iii) Other Premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out-workers' premises)	5	4	—	—
TOTAL	43	20	—	—

2. Cases in which DEFECTS were found.

PARTICULARS (1)	Number of cases in which defects were found				Number of cases in which prosecutions were instituted (7)
	Found (3)	Remedied (4)	Referred		
			To H.M. Inspector (5)	By H.M. Inspector (6)	
Want of cleanliness (S.1)	—	—	—	—	—
Overcrowding (S.2)	—	—	—	—	—
Unreasonable temperature (S.3)	—	—	—	—	—
Inadequate ventilation (S.4)	—	—	—	—	—
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6)	—	—	—	—	—
Sanitary conveniences (S.7):					
(a) Insufficient	—	—	—	—	—
(b) Unsuitable or defective	—	—	—	—	—
(c) Not separate for sexes	—	—	—	—	—
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to Outwork)	—	—	—	—	—
TOTAL	—	—	—	—	—

REPORT OF THE SENIOR PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR FOR THE YEAR 1968

MR. CHAIRMAN AND COUNCILLORS,

I have pleasure in submitting this Report on the work of the Department for the year 1968.

The first full year of operation of the newly constituted area was marred for me by my absence due to sickness for seven long months. Although being able to assist in some matters, even from my sick-bed, I must record my appreciation of Mr. Shepherd's efforts to maintain the services, coupled with the assistance given by Mr. Fedrick who gave a period of part-time service.

Housing improvement, in particular improvements effected by way of Discretionary or Standard Grants, has continued at a high level, e.g. the number of Discretionary Grants approved is almost double the figure for 1967 and has returned to the level for the years 1965 and 1966 when the area was larger. Present indications are that this will continue, and may well expand even further if the Grant levels are raised in accordance with recommendations now being considered by the Government.

Although the Improvement Grant Scheme does represent a considerable expenditure by the Council, in fact 25% of the Grant, and an average, on 1968 figures, of £77 per house, it is in my opinion a worthwhile operation for it –

- (a) provides the house with all amenities;
- (b) maintains in life a property which would otherwise decay and probably fall to be dealt with at some time by way of Slum Clearance;
- (c) relieves the Authority of the necessity to provide additional Council house accommodation, and
- (d) the amount of Grant borne by the Council is recouped over a period by the increased Rate Revenue due to increased assessments consequent upon the provision of amenities.

During the year, two Clearance Orders were made. Both were confirmed without modification by the Minister of Housing and Local Government.

I remain, Mr. Chairman and Councillors,

Your obedient servant,

R. OSBORNE,
Senior Public Health Inspector.

SUMMARY OF INSPECTIONS AND VISITS MADE

Houses inspected (Housing and Public Health Acts) ..	97
Total visits for housing purposes	537
Visits in connection with Council house applications ..	105
Factories	2
Food Premises	80
Slaughterhouses	558
Dairies	10
Petroleum	53
Explosives	4
Infectious Disease Investigations	23
Water Supplies and Sampling	194
Ice-Cream Sampling	31
Nuisances Investigated	139
Caravan Sites and Control of Development Act	21
Rodent Control	4
Drainage Work	136
Noise Abatement	6
Animal Boarding Establishments	8
Offices, Shops and Railway Premises	33
Swill Boiling	21
Scrap Metal Dealers	3
Pet Animals	6
Total number of visits for all purposes during the year ..	1,910

HOUSING: IMPROVEMENT GRANTS

Discretionary Grants

The following gives details of the work carried out during the year:

Number of applications made	26
Number of applications approved by the Council ..	26
Number of houses where work was completed during the year	18
Average amount per house	£309

FIVE-YEAR SUMMARY OF DISCRETIONARY GRANTS

	1964	1965	1966	1967	1968
No. of applications made ..	49	24	25	14	26
No. of applications approved ..	49	24	25	14	26
No. of houses completed ..	20	19	36	12	18
Average amount per house ..	£296	£302	£284	£344	£309

Standard Grants

The following gives details of the work carried out during the year:

Number of applications received	..	..	..	12
Number of applications approved	..	..	..	12
Number of houses where work was completed				
during the year	..	..	..	14
Average amount per house	..	..	..	£158

EXPLOSIVES ACTS, 1875 AND 1923

Seven store licences were issued; one premises was registered under Mode A or Mode B, and fourteen shops were registered for the storage of 'shop goods' – a term applied to all the smaller natures of fireworks which are not liable to explode violently.

PET ANIMALS ACT, 1952

This Act came into operation on the 1st April, 1952. It is necessary for a person keeping a pet shop to be licensed by the Council. Two licences were issued during the year.

DISEASES OF ANIMALS (WASTE FOODS) ORDER, 1957

This Order lays down conditions which have to be complied with when waste foods are collected and boiled before being fed to animals or poultry.

There are 13 licensed persons operating such boiling plants in the Rural District, and each is visited twice yearly in accordance with a recommendation by the Devon County Council.

FARM INFECTIONS

One cow died from Anthrax in March 1968. The Police dealt with disposal of the carcase and disinfection of the farm and premises under the Diseases of Animals Acts, but your Public Health Department advised the farmer and staff what precautions to take to avoid catching the infection.

An outbreak of Brucellosis occurred at a dairy farm in June 1968. Fortunately, all milk from the infected herd went to a large dairy at Plymouth and was pasteurised, which made it safe to drink. The farmer was advised to boil any raw milk used by himself or his workers.

Three outbreaks of Salmonella infection affected herds in March, October and December, resulting in the death of some of the animals. Salmonella organisms cause food poisoning in humans and in each instance inquiries were made as to the health of the farmer and his staff. Fortunately, no human illness resulted.

CARAVAN SITES AND CONTROL OF DEVELOPMENT ACT, 1960

No major changes have occurred. The final determination of the development pattern at the largest site in the area – at Stoke Beach – has still not been agreed.

NOISE ABATEMENT ACT, 1960

The freedom from heavy industry and similar sources of noise, which the district enjoys, means that few complaints are received.

ANIMAL BOARDING ESTABLISHMENTS ACT, 1963

Three licences to keep a boarding establishment were issued, the extent of the boarding in each case being on a very small scale.

OFFICES, SHOPS AND RAILWAY PREMISES ACT, 1963

Inspections were made of the new premises registered during the year. Visits were also made to premises from which no registration had been received to ascertain if the provisions of the Act were applicable.

Details of registrations and inspections, as sent to the Ministry of Labour, are as follows:

Class of Premises	Number of premises newly registered during year	Total number of premises registered at end of year	Number of registered premises receiving one or more general inspections during the year
Offices	1	8	2
Retail Shops	6	43	14
Wholesale Shops, Warehouses ..	—	—	—
Catering Establishments open to public, Canteens	2	12	4
Fuel Storage Depots	—	—	—
TOTAL	9	63	20

Number of visits of all kinds by Inspectors to registered premises: 33

Analysis by work-place of persons employed in registered premises is as follows:

Class of Workplace	No. of persons employed
Offices	21
Retail Shops	98
Wholesale Departments, Warehouses	—
Catering Establishments open to the public ..	48
Canteens	—
Fuel Storage Depots	—
TOTAL	167
TOTAL MALES	55
TOTAL FEMALES ..	112

SCRAP METAL DEALERS ACT, 1964

Every Local Authority is required to maintain a register of persons carrying on business in their area as scrap metal dealers. At the end of the year 7 persons were registered.

Co-operation with the police has been maintained.

RODENT CONTROL

In connection with the Prevention of Damage by Pests Act, 1949 no charge was made for work carried out at private dwellings but the full cost of work at business premises was recovered.

Co-operation has been maintained with the officials of the Infestation Division of the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food, and their advice is always appreciated.

For several years the Council's sewers have been almost free from rats.

Details of the work carried out during the year can be seen from the table.

	Type of Property	
	Non-Agricultural	Agricultural
PROPERTIES OTHER THAN SEWERS:		
1. Number of properties in district	5,582	417
2. (a) Total number of properties (including nearby premises) inspected following notification	269	8
(b) Number infested by:		
(i) Rats	149	1
(ii) Mice	3	—
3. (a) Total number of properties inspected for rats and/or mice for reasons other than notification	96	—
(b) Number infested by:		
(i) Rats	35	—
(ii) Mice	—	—

The methods advocated by the Infestation Division of the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food for the extermination of rats and mice were used, the bait bases being damp sausage rusk, bread mash, oatmeal and sugar meal, and the poisons zinc phosphide, arsenious oxide and 'Warfarin'.

MEAT AND FOOD INSPECTION

SLAUGHTERHOUSES

Three applications for the renewal of licences were received, all of which were granted.

During the year visits were made as follows:

Slaughterhouses 558

MEAT

The total weight of carcasses and organs found to be diseased and voluntarily surrendered was 13 tons 2 cwt. 2 qr. 18 lb.

Diseased meat, etc., is collected by arrangement and converted into glues and fertilisers.

CARCASSES AND OFFAL INSPECTED AND CONDEMNED
IN WHOLE OR IN PART

	Cattle exclud'g Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs
Number inspected	471	1,114	44	13,063	2,551
All diseases except Tuberculosis and Cysticerci:					
Whole carcasses condemned	—	6	7	77	7
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned ..	48	531	1	3,874	160
Percentage of the number inspected affected with dis- ease other than tuberculosis and cysticerci	10.2	48.2	18.2	30.2	6.5
Tuberculosis only:					
Whole carcasses condemned	—	—	—	—	—
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned ..	—	—	—	—	16
Percentage of the number inspected affected with tuberculosis	—	—	—	—	0.62
Cysticercosis:					
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned ..	—	—	—	—	—
Carcasses submitted to treat- ment by refrigeration ..	—	—	—	—	—
Generalised and totally condemned	—	—	—	—	—

FOOD PREMISES

Inspections of Food Premises were carried out under the Food Hygiene (General) Regulations, 1960, and notices served where necessary.

The number of food premises registered under Section 16, Food and Drugs Act, 1955, are as follows:

the manufacture of ice-cream for sale	Nil
the sale of ice-cream	65
the manufacture of preserved food	12
	—
	77
	—

By-Laws as to the handling and sale of food are in force in the Rural District. Minor contraventions were detected, but these were quickly rectified when the shopkeepers were notified.

MILK

The number of dairies and distributors registered under the Milk and Dairies (General) Regulations, 1959, are as follows:

Dairies	..	..	..	..	..	..	5
Distributors	..	..	..	..	..	..	16
							<hr/> 21 <hr/>

Ten visits of inspection were made during the year.

PETROLEUM SPIRIT LICENCES

The undermentioned figures apply to the period from the 1st April, 1968, to the 31st March, 1969.

PETROLEUM SPIRIT

Number of licences renewed during the above period	..	31
Number of new licences issued during the above period		—
Number of licences transferred	.. .. .	—

The replacement of old and small petroleum storage tanks by tanks of a capacity of 2,000 gallons or more, and the provision of more sophisticated patterns of service pumps, has continued.

The development of additional 'self-service' facilities appears to be a marketing trend, including the use of coin and note acceptance devices. One such installation has been completed during the year and, with the full co-operation of the Station Operator and the Petroleum Company, safety measures additional to the built-in devices have been provided.

UNDERHILL (PLYMOUTH) LTD
REGENT STREET PLYMOUTH
